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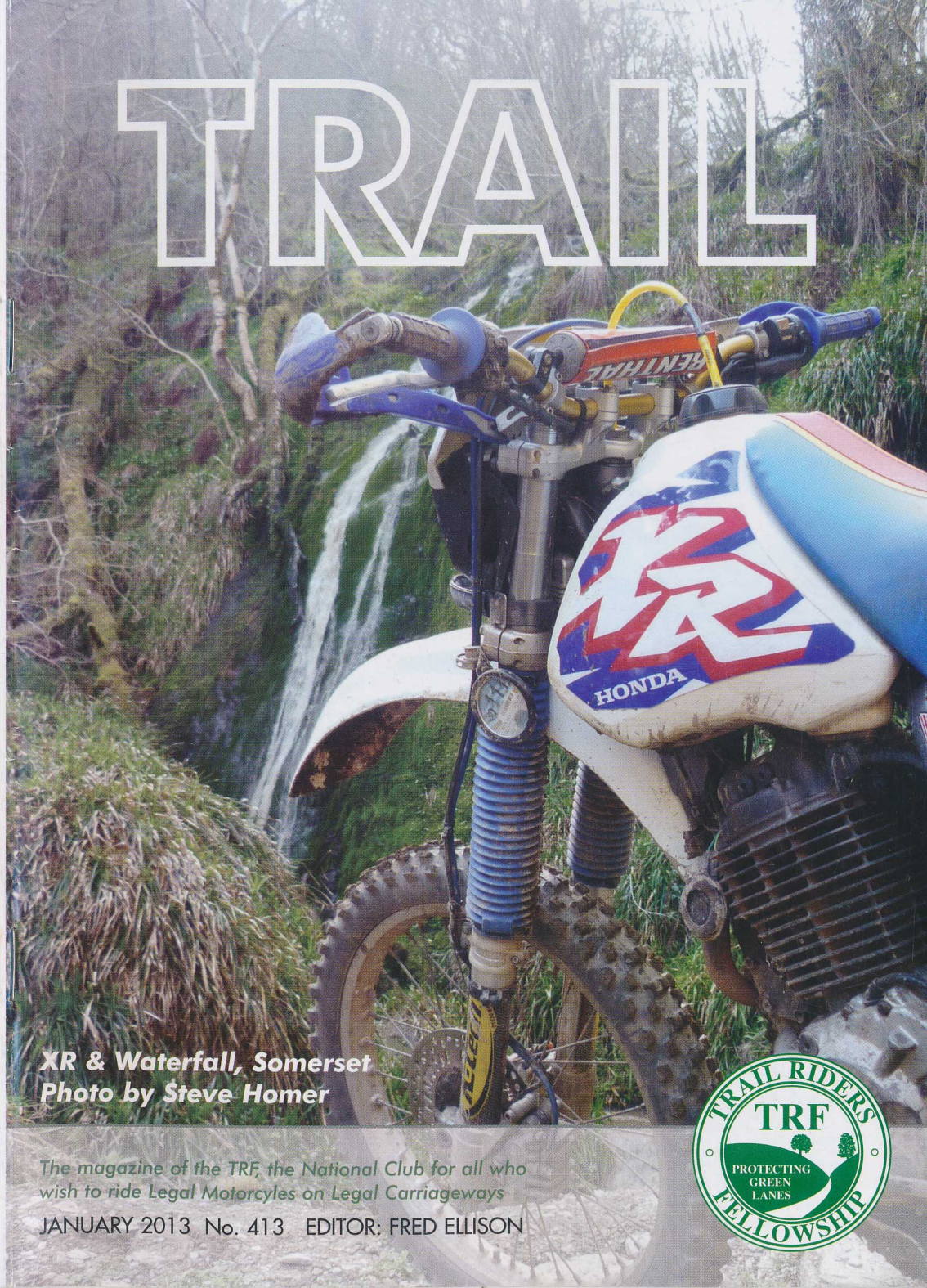
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# TRAIL



**XR & Waterfall, Somerset**  
Photo by Steve Homer

The magazine of the TRF, the National Club for all who wish to ride Legal Motorcycles on Legal Carriageways

JANUARY 2013 No. 413 EDITOR: FRED ELLISON





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**Display Ads:** For Advertising Rates please contact Fred Ellison, 01254 823893 editor@trf.org.uk  
**Members Classifieds:** Bikes, Riding Gear etc **FREE OF CHARGE** Enclose membership number.  
**ALL Commercial Advertising to be paid for** - £1 per line, £5 minimum. Please send all classifieds with payment if applicable to THE EDITOR, Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe BB7 9DG. Tel: 01254 823893 Fax: 01254 887999 editor@trf.org.uk

# EDITOR

- **Have you planned any major expeditions this year?**
- **Thinking about a World Tour?**
- **A Trip to Morocco?**
- **Or just want to dream a little?**

If the answer to any of these is yes then you should head down to the HUBB at Donington 30th May to 2nd June and meet lots of fellow travellers; glean information and where to sleep in Hungary or Thailand; how to skin and cook a rabbit that was unfortunate enough to get in the way of your front wheel and whole lot more. I understand from Jack Knight that the TRF will have a presence and be offering guided trail rides so all in all well worth a visit.

**TRF Executive Meeting**, 10am, Sunday 3rd February. It's at The Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon. For those who like a freebie (who doesn't?) get yourself down to the Executive Meeting and take advantage of the free entry to the Motor Centre which has some seriously interesting exhibits.

*Fred Ellison*  
Editor

## CONTENTS

NOTICE BOARD	2
VEHICLE USERS RAMP UP BATTLE IN NATIONAL PARK	4
DISCOVERY IN DEVON	6
ONE OF THOSE DAYS	8
THE GREAT ESCAPE...	12
HUBB UK	15
THE FORUM	19

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would be interesting*

#### COVER PHOTO:

XR & Waterfall, Somerset.  
Photo by Steve Homer

#### COPY DEADLINE:

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All contributions to THE EDITOR  
Fred Ellison, Sheepcote Farm,  
Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe  
BB7 9DG editor@trf.org.uk

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## NOTICE BOARD

# TRF EXECUTIVE MEETING

**10.00 am on Sunday 3rd February 2013**

**Syndicate Room 6, The Heritage Motor Centre, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0BJ. (01926 641 188)**

**THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE TRF.**

*Please make sure your group is represented.*

*If you don't belong to a group you are also welcome to join the meeting.*

Polly Cody, TRF Secretary.



## LODDON VALE GROUP VENUE CHANGE

As of January 2013, the Loddon Group will now meet on the second TUESDAY of each month at The Swan Inn, Three Mile Cross.

The Swan at Three Mile Cross, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berks RG7 1AT.

For more info email: [joinus@lvtrf.co.uk](mailto:joinus@lvtrf.co.uk)

[www.lvtrf.co.uk](http://www.lvtrf.co.uk)

*Loddon Vale Trail Riders Fellowship: Riding, conserving and enjoying the green lanes of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Surrey.*

## KENT MEETING VENUE CHANGE

**New Venue:** The Anchor and Hope, South Ash Road, Ash (Nr Sevenoaks), Kent TN15 7ER.



**Wiltshire Trail Riders Fellowship**

## WESSEX WANDERER WEEKEND 2013

**May 18th & 19th 2013**

*A weekend of guided rides for national TRF members hosted by the Wiltshire TRF Group*

Wiltshire TRF is pleased to announce that the Wessex Wanderer weekend will be held on the weekend of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th May 2013.

An invitation is extended to national TRF members to join us for a weekend of guided runs led by experienced local run leaders in groups with a maximum size of 6 riders and catering for all - from the beginner to the progressive.

As last year, the event will be centred on the Three Magpies Public House near Devizes with local facilities for camping, camper vans and bed and breakfast.

Further information and a booking form will be published in the February issue of Trail.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**TRF Executive Meeting** 10.00 am, Sunday 3rd February 2013.

Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon.

**Wiltshire TRF Wessex Wanderer Weekend 2013**

May 18th & 19th 2013. Further information & booking form to be published in February's TRAIL.

**BMF Show** Peterborough: 18th-19th May 2013

**BMF Bikefest** Kelso: 6th-7th July 2013

**BMF Tailend** Peterborough: 14th-15th September 2013

## MAKE SURE YOUR EVENT IS LISTED

Send any details to The Editor [editor@trf.org.uk](mailto:editor@trf.org.uk),  
Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe, BB7 9DG.



# Vehicle Users Ramp Up Battle in National Park

## Vehicle Users will turn out in force to fight Chapel Gate closure

Trail riders and drivers angry at attempts by the Peak District National Park Authority's plan to close Chapel Gate - an historic road in the park - are to descend onto the Authority's offices in force when it debates the issue on 25 January.

A spokesman for the protest organisers: Peak & Derbyshire Vehicle User Group; said: "The PDNPA has already wasted tens of thousands of pounds defending a spurious 'Experimental Traffic Regulation Order' banning motorised use of Chapel Gate.

"PDNPA was taken to court by one of our member clubs: the Trail Riders Fellowship; and the judge ruled that the ETRO was illegal, as no 'experiment' was in fact taking place."

The judge's ruling states: "It is impossible to discern from the Statement of Reasons what that experiment might be. The experiment which I discern from the Statement of Reasons has no rational basis...the experiment described can clearly be seen to be no experiment at all."

"The NPA Press Release announcing the public consultation does not suggest an experiment as described in the officer's report."

"On that basis, the officer's report cannot be admitted to contradict the Statement of Reasons without revealing a further unlawfulness, in the failure to consult adequately. I do not think that consultees would have appreciated the nature of the

experiment from the Statement of Reasons, which is where they should be entitled to look.

"For those reasons, I quash the Order. The NPA will have had fifteen months in which to gather the data it sought. The NPA cannot move to make the Order permanent without going through the full TRO procedure."

Incredibly, the PDNPA appears to have not understood the ruling, claiming in a press release dated November 30, that the judge had rejected the TRF arguments that the Order was not a genuine experiment and was irrational and unlawful, and that the PDNPA had lost on a technicality.

And, even more incredibly, the PDNPA now appears determined to introduce a blanket ban on all motor vehicles using the road, for reasons that are neither clear nor rational, citing damage done by walkers on surrounding 'right to roam' land as justification for closing the road itself to motors!

The Peak & Derbyshire Vehicle Users Group spokesman said: "There are plenty of examples of walkers damaging right to roam land in the park without the presence of a nearby vehicular right of way, with Kinder Scout being a good example. This damage will no doubt continue with or without the passage of the occasional vehicle on the road until more is done to educate walkers as to their responsibilities."

"So it is really hard to discern any motive for this action, other than spite. It would appear

that PDNPA is pursuing a vendetta against lawful motorists, who pay road tax, fuel duty and insurance premium tax to be able to use the Park's road network. We would like to know if these unelected but powerful individuals are acting for their own reasons, or whether their strings are being pulled by others."

"We are going to use the PDNPA's Audit, Resources and Performance Committee where they plan to put forward proposals for a total ban on motors, to raise important questions about the motivation for these measures and their cost to the public."

"Our Group is prepared to work with the PDNPA and other stakeholders to produce a constructive policy for the future of the Park's historic road network. We are prepared to

continue with our efforts to educate all classes of user and give up our own time to maintain the network."

"If, however, the PDNPA is not prepared to engage with us in a constructive manner we will throw our full weight into opposing them."

"The recent court case means that they are already one-nil (and at least £20,000) down, and they are going to have to pay the TRF's costs."

"We are offering them a last opportunity for an equitable solution. Our presence in strength at the January 25 meeting should serve as a warning to them as to the reserves that we can draw upon should they decide to continue with their policy of confrontation."

Richard Simpson

## TRF 'Shop Assistant' Required

### To look after and run the TRF shop - web based.

The role will involve the following tasks;

- Monthly stock checks - and submit to the Treasurer at the end of each month/each quarter.
- The ability to be able to source relevant products for the whole membership, cost and compare P&L.
- Look at monthly special offers advising the membership through the home page of the shop, the TRF Forum and TRAIL.
- To encourage local groups to take stock and sell at local group meetings and events, along with suggested selling prices.

Ideally must have basic experience in IT, programming and the ability to reconcile month end reports based on sales and profit, etc.

Must have a free space to be able to store stock boxes.

This is a volunteer position and general expenses will be paid, postage, mileage to and from Post Office if out of way, etc.

**If you are interested in taking this role on please drop Debbie a line via email - memsec@trf.org.uk**





# Discovery in Devon

## Bennah Hill, Christow A Success for Devon TRF

Discovered by Rob Drake who spotted a discrepancy between the line of the road as shown on the List of Streets and the tarmac on the ground. A recce revealed it had not been used by vehicles in living memory but a pair of parallel stone walls enclose the way which had several trees down across it.

Cleared stealthily by Noel and myself one wet Tuesday (9th May), pausing to wait for a quad driver to pass by then continuing with the chainsaw noise drowned out by the quad.

Secretary Steve's 'A Few Hours on Sunday' run on May 27th went to ride the lane downhill and found it blocked.

Half a dozen riders had made short work of clearing boughs and other obstructions from half the lane when the quad rider appeared, demanding that we stop what we were doing to his 'garden'.

Noel and myself explained that the way is a public road and our reasons for believing it so. The man, who said he was Mr. X, didn't believe us. I said I would arrange for PROW to write to him to confirm the fact that the way is

a public highway, (and as an aside that the tarmac way was not).

An e-mail to PROW received the usual acknowledgement and nothing further.

A Freedom of Information request yielded confirmation that the unsurfaced way is recorded on the List of Streets as maintainable at public expense and was considered to be so in 1949 when the County Council took over responsibility for road maintenance from the District Council, and that the tarmac way currently maintained is not so recorded. Just as I said.

I hand delivered a copy to him at Bennah Farm (15th July), and discovered that his real name is Y (not X as he had claimed, glad I filmed it or I would have been unsure he lied), along with a letter stating that since he now had confirmation that the way is public that unless we were to hear from him of any evidence to contradict that fact within 28 days that we would consider the way public and act accordingly. We also offered to provide a covering or other protection for his well, which

is in the lane.

31 days later (15th August) I received a letter from his agent at the NFU telling me that his client had 'additional information' and was contacting the authorities because of the 'uncertainty' about the land, and stating that we should not attempt to gain access.

I hand delivered a letter (23rd August) asking to be informed within a further 28 days (taken from the beginning of my first 28 days) of any evidence uncovered, reiterating that we were prepared to ask our members not to use the lane in the meantime but that should he not wish to present evidence to contest the status of the road as confirmed by DCC we would inform our members that the way is available for them to use beyond that date.

The agent's second letter (5th September) referred to a site meeting to be held with DCC the following week and extenuating circumstances regarding difficulties making arrangements due to DCC PROW staff holidays.

I telephoned DCC PROW and the NFU and tried to find out when the site meeting would be held. They didn't fall for my request for a 'reminder' of the date and time and said that it would not be helpful for third parties to be present.

The DCC PROW person responsible for the

area phoned me back confused because he knew nothing about it. PROW took over responsibility for unsurfaced unclassified county roads from Highways recently. He made inquiries and phoned me back to say Highways were the ones holding the site meeting. I asked him to make sure the landowner was left in no doubt that the way is a public road and assured him that should the landowner block the way I would be contacting him to arrange the unblocking since I know it would fall on his desk.

The day after the site meeting (13th September) PROW e-mailed me to say that the landowner had been told to unblock the road, and that he may erect a fence around his well providing that room be left to allow passage alongside.

I replied with gratitude at this good result. I contacted the NFU agent to reiterate the offer to provide a well covering/fence materials, but heard nothing back.

Then I rode it for the first time (30th September), squeezing past a newly erected fence around the well, with a certain sense of satisfaction I can tell you.

A fairly good example of what the Trail Riders Fellowship is all about I would say.

Pete Bull

Taken from The Devon Newsletter





# It's Going To Be One of Those Days

## ***Do you ever get the feeling some days that its going to be one of those days?***


There are a group of us that ride the Wye Valley from Chepstow to Monmouth mid week. We're all the wrong side of 60 and retired. Mid week the trails are quiet and we have a great day out always stopping at Monmouth for tea and cakes at midday. This retirement really does suck!

There are 4 of us Mike, Lou, Vince and Me, another Mike. I ride a Berg 380 being rather tall, the other three, hobbits from middle earth, ride Gas Gas Pampera's. It's great riding with them, because as anybody who knows about Pamps will tell you, they rarely get stuck, although I have seen them upside down a few times. The downside is, if you're at the back it's the equivalent of smoking 20 Capstan Full Strength a day. The secret is to know the route and try and stay in front. Not always that easy in the Wye Valley as anyone who has entered the Wye Gate will tell you.

Thursday's ride was not going ahead at first (damn it), it was Mike's birthday and he was taking the wife out, Lou's Pamp was in bits for a major O/H, Vince's wheels were having mousses fitted. I had fitted new tyres, mousses, chain and sprockets with different gearing and suspension set up and I wanted to try the Berg out. Then came the call Wednesday night 7 pm, it's on tomorrow, just Mike and Vince, did I want to go. Hum. Dash to the shed to get the gear in to warm up, the bike was ready to

go. I would trailer tow to Vince's where we would set off from. Thursday morning brought a heavy frost and the first problem of the day. The trailer clamp was frozen solid, de-icer had no effect, so extension lead and hot air gun did the job and I thought to myself, I bet its going to be **"One of those Days"**. Lock freed off, bike on, wife in car as she was going shopping at Ross on Wye and we were off. Take the coast road to the Severn Bridge avoid the traffic I thought. Bad move east of Avonmouth road blocked, 2 cars in ditch and car transporter across the road. Trailer off, turn car around in lane, trailer on, find another route. Yes its going to be **"One of those Days"**.

I arrived at Vince's just after 9 am. Pamps ready to go, quick change, goodbye to the girls and we're off or at least Vince was, for as he tried to straddle the Pamp outside his front gate he slipped and fell. When Mike and I had stopped laughing we pulled the Pamp off Vince and up and away. Mike, the birthday boy, decided to take a different route that would totally change the day's events, little did we know this at the time though. First trail of the day at Mort, Mike's Pamp went over a well known tree root and decided to turn left, but Mike went straight on (man down). We rode north to Monmouth and the last trail before tea and buns at Bridgit's Tea Rooms. The day was about to change. We came across Ruth, a woman trying to manage 2 horses on her own and in some difficulty. It turned out her friend, Helen, had been thrown from her horse. The horse had been spooked by a deer and thrown her off and into a tree and she was injured. Ruth had had to leave her on the ground and was trying, with the 2 horses, to get back to the stables 2 miles away and get help. After a quick chat Mike and Vince went to find the injured Helen and I parked up the Berg took the reins of a 1 HP 17 hands Cob. Now, I ain't no Bronco Billy, but I thought I can



do this. To get on his good side, no sugar lumps for this steed (named MAX). So he ate half a packet of my energy tablets. As I tried to mount him my boots were to big for the stirrups. He was having none of this, so he walked /dragged me for a mile up the track into a clearing where Ruth's friend was waiting. She had called for an ambulance and had brought a blanket down to see if she could help. Fair exchange I thought blanket for horse, I helped her onto Max and I returned to my bike with blanket to look for my mates and Helen.

I found them deep in the woods and we tried to make her warm and keep her spirits up, but she was in pain and going into shock. Mike left on his bike to look for the paramedics, only to return 10 mins later with a paramedic on the back of his Pamp. Examination done. We can't move her and where's all his kit? Back at the end of the track. Off I set with Vince and



return with emergency kit, morphine and laughing gas, Vince brought another Paramedic, Helen was soon drugged up and on a thermal mat. Within the space of another hour between us we had ferried 6 paramedics to the scene. Helen's husband Mat had turn up with Dave, the Husband of Ruth and owner of the stables, on a quad.

Could a helicopter land around here? was asked by the paramedic in charge. No chance, too boggy and too many trees we told them. So the Fire Brigade was called out from Malvern with their all singing and dancing 6 wheel drive Bobcat. I went back up the track to guide them in. 3 hrs had passed now and at the scene it was decided that no way could Helen be moved on the back of the bobcat. We need a helicopter with a winch. The only way is up. By this time there were 8 paramedics, 5 firemen, Husband Mat, Ruth and Brian, the stable owners, 1 bobcat, 1 quad, 2 4x4, 3 bikes and us. Now a Sea King search and rescue helicopter from Chivenor near Barnstaple had been scrambled and would be with us in less than 1/2 hr. Sure enough it arrived on time and Helen was winched up and a paramedic for safe keeping

and off to hospital.

With Helen gone, we all packed up. The Medics and Fire Brigade had done a great job and really cared for Helen. They all thanked us for our efforts and help. We had tea and biscuits at Ruth and Brian's and Mat the husband thanked us no end. We said our farewells and set off down the track, which we'd now been up and down about 10 times and headed home. The Fire Brigade were still in the woods having a blast around on the bobcat and we were a little disappointed when they would'nt let us have a go. We were all feeling pretty good with ourselves and I had earlier on pulled 4" of fencing wire out of my brand new Perrelli MT43 back tyre (don't you just love mousses at that moment). We waved at the firemen in the forest (b\*\*\*\*y hooligans!) and I said to Vince go careful we don't want another injury as the medics have all gone home. Did he go careful, no within 200m he was sliding through the mud and crap and he wasn't on the Pamp. Yes **"it was one of those days"**.

Mike Mant, Bristol TRF.

PS Helen is doing well and recovering in hospital.



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# The Great Escape... Or was it?

## The Latest News from Sam Manicom

What an amazingly buzzy summer 2012 was! I hope yours was too.

A little while ago I had a kidney transplant and the docs had quite rightly grounded me - small price! I've been allowed to ride the bike for the last year but head off overseas on it? The docs always had a, 'don't be silly' expression on their faces! No surprise I guess, but one does have to ask...

The news is that a couple of months ago, Birgit and I were given the go ahead to leave the country! Well, for four weeks anyway, but the key was that the docs had said yes to us doing so on the bikes. Of course my instinct was to head somewhere hot and verging on the exotic. 'Let's go to North Africa,' said I. Thankfully, Birgit is a tad more in control of her instincts than me! 'Let's go for hot, but stay within reach in case something does go wrong with your transplant.' Words of wisdom!

So the Balkans or Northern Spain? We chose the latter, and did so for quite a few reasons. Over the past year we've heard many tales about how fantastic the Picos Mountains and the Pyrenees are to ride; both on the asphalt and on the gravel. And we'd also had the chance to look at some of the beautiful landscape photos I've ever seen... But shots never do a scene justice do they, so we had to go to take a look for ourselves. This decision was also helped by a couple more things.

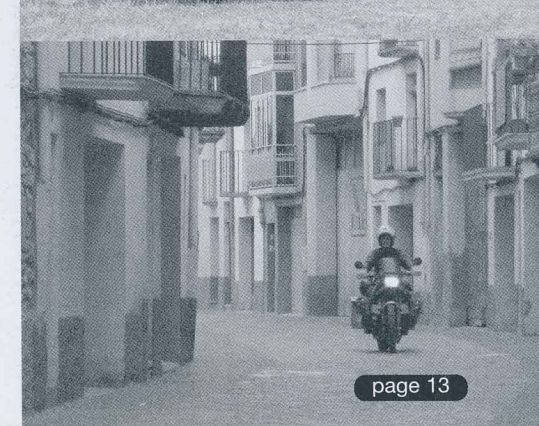
The first, the timing was exactly right to be out of the main European holiday period, and the

weather in September in the Pyrenees is supposed to be at its best. And second, the scoot up through France would give us the chance to link up with old friends of the Road, Ashley and Donna. If you have read 'Into Africa' by now (p207) then you'll have already met this inspirational duo.

The thought of having four weeks to play with slipped grins across our faces. But how to use them? The weeks I mean. 'Let's not make any plans at all, other than booking the ferry from the UK to Spain, and the idea to link up with Ashley and Donna. The rest of the time; let's just make it up as we start each day.' And so we did.

The Plymouth to Santander ferry eased up to the jetty and the adventure was already on a roll. It took a long time for the hundreds of motorcycles to make their way off the boat and through immigration and customs controls. Birgit and I pulled over to one side and let the queue work its way down to just a few bikes. What an amazing mix of machines! And when we got to immigration, the officers had the chance to have a chat. One was rather round-eyed at the number of countries listed on the side of my pannier. I imagined I could see the idea of travel rapidly ease into his mind... I couldn't help but smile at the deeply thoughtful expression he suddenly had on his face.

The feeling of waking up each morning and thinking, 'what shall we do today?' was rather rusty but we soon slipped back into it. That's an





understatement! We revelled in it and over the next weeks we meandered our way across the foothills on the Spanish side of the Pyrenees, staying on tiny potholed and bump-ridden asphalt lanes and the very many gravel tracks that are to be found in this part of the world. The roads of Cantabria, the Picos, Rioja, the Bardenas, and Aragon were just what we needed!

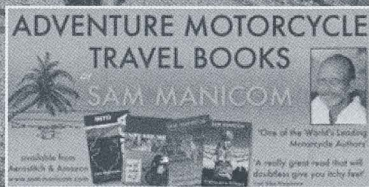
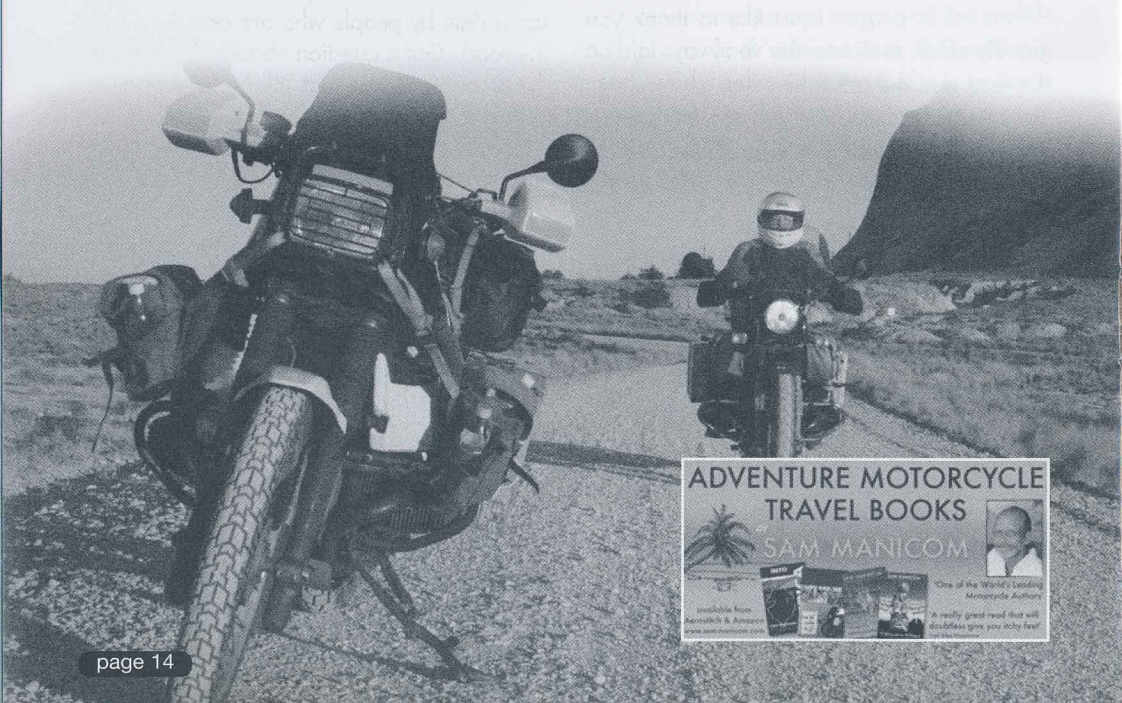
We couldn't miss out on riding up into Andorra whilst in the area. I'd not been there since I was 21 when I'd hitched through Europe for a year and a half. Had it changed? Friends had told us it was one long stream of ugly hotels and supermarkets, and nothing much else. That wasn't how I remembered it, and as soon as we rode off the beaten track we saw Andorra at its best. Stunning, and some excellent dirt tracks to ride; to my surprise we could point our bikes to the hills and the tracks just appeared and no one seemed to mind our riding them. Of course we treated the environment with respect but I

know you guys know all about that!

Of course, being British, I do have to make a comment about the weather. Fantastic, every day! Until we were on the ride northwards through France that is. Then of course the fact that it was the beginning of Autumn caught up with us. But hey, it's only water! And Birgit's 'words of wisdom'? They weren't needed at all this time around. Phew, now what's next?

Would we ride this part of the world again? Like a shot! There was so much we didn't see and I loved the idea of riding through a land where time seemed to have stood still. Tiny villages where donkeys stood on the roadsides, where buildings were tumble down plaster and terracotta, and the people, well, they looked with surprise to see us riding through their villages. Great stuff. If you get a chance to ride northern Spain, we highly recommend it. Stay off the beaten track - easy to do and you really will be riding back in time. An interesting sensation...

Sam Manicom



## The HUBB UK. On Your 'To Do' List?

Did you know that there's a new travel event that you may well feel right at home at? It's happening this year from the 30th May to the 2nd June, and it's from Horizons Unlimited. One for your diary?

If you are one of the TRF members who have volunteered to run trail rides at Horizons Unlimited in previous years, then you are already clued up, in spite of the HUBB UK name change for the event and new venue. But before I talk more, I'd just like to thank you guys for all your efforts. You've always laid on a fascinating set of rides which have been much appreciated by attendees. Mind you, I think with the somewhat, erm, damp weather in June last year, a dry tent and a warm beer gained the most appreciation! But you were there, so you know what I mean!

But the HUBB UK? What's it all about? People who have set off on trans-continental or round the world rides will have heard of Horizons Unlimited (HU). People who read motorcycle books and magazines will have heard a bit about it, but if you haven't come across the event, well, let me spill a few beans...

HU was set up by Grant and Susan Johnson. The duo spent 11 years riding 50 countries around the world. Setting off in 1987, they fast realised how hard it was to get useful and genuinely up to date information that would

allow them to take full advantage of being out on the road. In fact, the more people they met, the more asked them, 'How do you do this...?' 'How do you deal with that...?' 'What's the best way to travel through...?' And so on.

Over the following years Grant and Susan built the only website focussing on long distance motorcycle travellers. The site is now fascinatingly deep and absolutely packed with information. But the key is that it's kept bang up to date by people who are actually out on the road. Got a question about riding through the Congo? Like as not it'll be answered by someone who is actually there, or has just passed through. Want to know if it's safe to ride across Baluchistan, or Iran, or Colombia or Nicaragua or... Want a ferry to get from Europe to Egypt, or are looking to ship your bike to the US, or...?

As interest in overlanding grew, more people began to ask questions, to discover Horizons Unlimited and then contributed information themselves. In 2000, Grant and Susan decided to hold a get-together of overlanders, which they called a 'Meet'. With just 20 people at this first Meet, the event slowly grew; first to a rough field behind a pub - very basic amenities and one room that would do for presentations. Then after a couple of years the Meet moved to a larger Ripley venue. There,



over the next nine years, it grew to the stage where hundreds of travel enthusiasts began to attend.

Now the Meet is used as the template for Grant and Susan to set up travel events all over the world. You'll find them in Australia, Greece, California, Ireland, Thailand, Canada, Argentina and more. Many travellers who have first been to HU in the UK then try to link-up with other travellers at the events.

Over these years there was also a growing interest from people who travel in expedition vehicles, ranging from beat-up old Toyota Land Cruisers and Land Rovers to tricked-out Unimogs. And then cyclists began to show interest and Grant and Susan welcomed everyone; the idea being that though we all use different vehicles, we all travel the same roads and we all have questions to ask. Information to share too.

After nine years the HU Meet outgrew the venue. For 2013, with encouragement from attendees, the organisers have moved the event to a new venue which, 'Allows us a lot more room to play with.' With the move, the event has taken on a new name: HUBB UK. The name was in part suggested by previous attendees. 'Are you going to the Ripley HUBB?' The HUBB? This started off simply as

the name for the Horizons Unlimited Forum - the HU Bulletin Board; the centre of activity and information flow.

And that is exactly what the Horizons Unlimited HUBB UK is all about. Over the 4 days of the event, travel enthusiasts from all over the world will be heading to the Donington Park Farmhouse Hotel, next to the famous Donington Park race track. Some are actually on their rides around the world and in the past many have been from countries overseas - South Africans, Australians, Canadians, Americans, Argentineans, French, Germans, Zimbabweans, Dutch, Danes, Czechs, from Hong Kong and so the list goes on.

There will be over 200 sessions of presentations and practical demonstrations. The presentations are made in five fully-equipped rooms, so that attendees have the chance to see photos and footage at their best. Speakers range from those who are up on stage for the first time in their lives, to 'names' who now talk at motorcycle and travel shows and clubs all over the UK; the world in some instances.

Camping facilities are really good, food is available on site from the restaurant and the out-of-hours take-away, and there's even a corner shop. If camping isn't your bag, there are hotel rooms on site and plenty of B&Bs in the area. In the Adventure Travel Zone you'll find companies who specialise in the equipment you'll need to kit-out both you and your bike. The beauty of finding travel specific companies at the HUBB UK? Unlike big bike shows, their staff have the time to really talk with you, and in some cases the companies are so specialised that you just won't find them at the big shows.

If you are at the stage where you are planning your big trip, then you couldn't wish for a better opportunity to brain-pick and make friends with those you might cross trails with on the road. If you've completed your trip,

you'll have learned a lot. Head over to share your experience - you can make the difference between someone spending too much, falling off too often, getting into trouble, or having a fantastic life changing time. You'll be able to do that not only as a presenter, if you fancy a go, but also in the bar, round the fire drums and in the rendezvous marquee.

You'll also feel very much at home if you'd love to head out on the long road, but circumstances won't let you. Realities of life do get in the way, but you can keep your dream alive at the HUBB UK. It's an excellent atmosphere where there are no airs and graces. People are taken for who they are and for their dreams, not what bike they ride or how much money they have. Good natured humour is constant and getting plastered isn't the name of the game at all, though there will be two bars on site and one of those will be a real ale bar.

It's not only the presentations and the travel companies, there are other things to get involved with too. Learn how to skin a rabbit at the Road Kill cookout. Fancy your riding skills are top notch? Then take part in the slow bike race; it's a huge laugh. There will also be a

skills course for those who are complete overlanding novices and worry whether they know enough to head out onto the roads of the World? If you've already decided that the weekend will be fun, then you might like to volunteer to help out with this; pass on some of your knowledge. There's a tremendous overlap between trail riding skills and those needed for overlanding.

Well, by now you can tell that I'm a complete enthusiast for Horizons Unlimited and the HUBB UK. Why? The event is fun, unpretentious, useful and a huge source of knowledge. If you book before the 23rd of May the 4-day event will cost you just £65. That includes camping and entry to every single presentation or demonstration. Not bad eh...

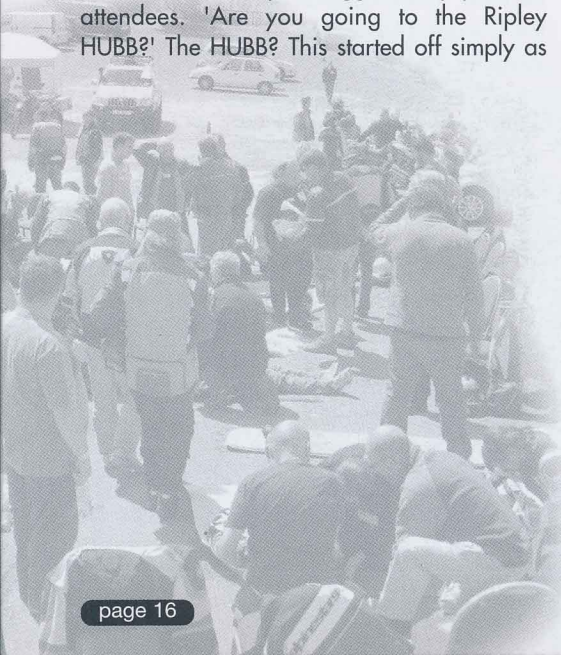
You can find out more about the HUBB UK here:

<http://www.horizonsunlimited.com/events/hubbuk/>

It'd be great to see you there - 30th May to 2nd June 2013

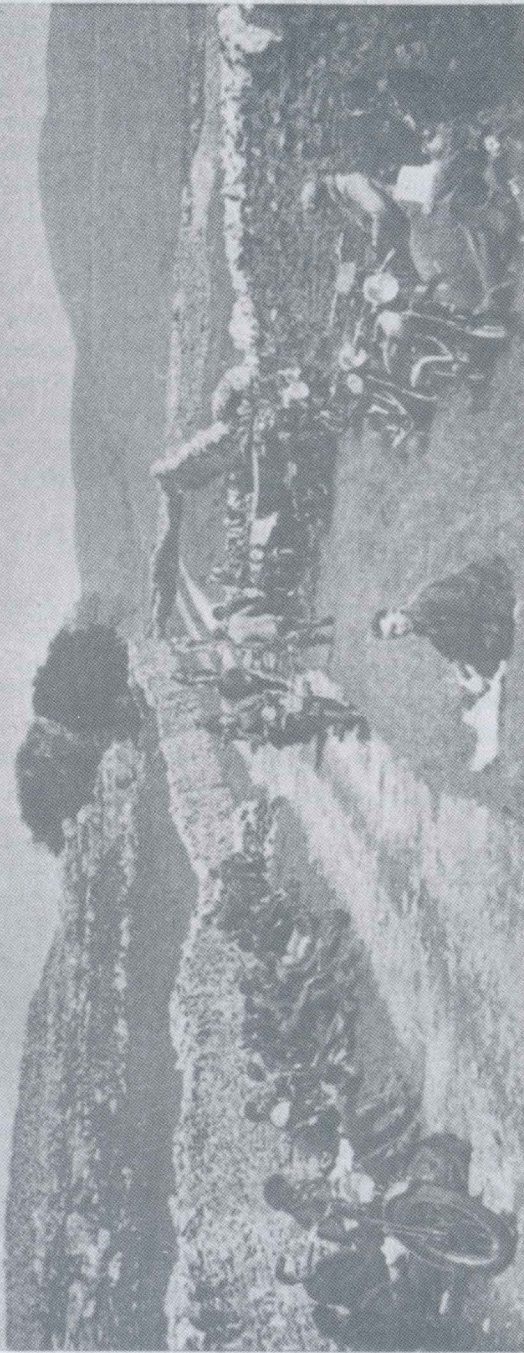
[www.horizonsunlimited.com](http://www.horizonsunlimited.com)

Sam Manicom





# CLUB NEWS



Alan Kind writes, this came to me recently via a colleague who has an interest in the history of motorcycling on the public roads of Britain. As he says, it goes to disprove the 'anti's' when they say that trail riding is a recent invention. That is not a competitive event in the picture. There are no competition numbers, those big headlights would have been removed, and the young fellow in the foreground has a picnic blanket out. It looks like the Yorkshire Dates to me. Can anyone identify the location? It is rather reassuring that, 75 years later, elderly chaps in Northumberland are still out riding these lanes on their Royal Enfields.

# THE FORUM

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE TRF CLUB MEMBERSHIP

### Are we at a bit of a crossroads?

People join the TRF for various reasons but, speaking personally, it was to meet people to ride with and, from that, came an awareness of the predicament trail raiding was getting into (just over 3 years ago). Over that time I have been more conscious of the problems and how to deal with them. I am, however, a novice at Rights of Way legislation and rely heavily on others within the club for guidance.

I have long been frustrated at the fragmentation of the various sections of the club and this has now been highlighted by the extreme pressures on riding in the Peak District National Park. What happens there will almost certainly filter across the country as the 'anti's' exert more influence on the powers that be.

I am a firm advocate for the forum and feel it is by far the best way to communicate within the club and recent topics have shown that executive/member communication appears to be little or non-existent, although the appointment to the Board of a new Communications Director will no doubt make a huge difference. I am sure the board work hard on our behalf but I, for one, have no idea who they are or what they do

and I feel I am not alone.

I had no idea TRAIL existed when I joined and, although a pleasant read, it does not figure high on my list of priorities when we could be utilising the website, forum and email as the main means of communication.

What has now been raised are the costs related to the publishing of TRAIL and it is clear that, within the forum at least, it is an unsustainable luxury as a means of communication and is taking desperately needed money away from the fighting fund. I have agreed to write this piece on behalf of a number of members as an introduction to the wider discussion.

The forum and email are immediate and inexpensive, whereas the contents of TRAIL will inevitably be out of date and, from what I understand, not always read. Urgent information is already sent by email.

Can we really justify £49,000 a year on a magazine out of a total 'membership subscription etc' income (what is the etc?) of £127,000 when there is so much that could be done with the money, such as obtaining legal advice and representation. We also appear to have made an operating loss of just under £12,000 before legal costs (presumably fighting fund expenditure) - this surely cannot be sustainable.

While I appreciate that some members may



not be computer friendly (or even own one), I would suspect that, in this day and age, they would be relatively few and far between and the TRF, as all organisations, must keep abreast of modern technology and, in particular, modern communication methods.

We have to address the question of what our priorities are and how we proceed from here and this open letter is a way of opening the debate to the whole club.

Various cost saving proposals have been mooted and as devil's advocate I suggest these options:

A more simple newsletter in a bi-monthly or quarterly paper.

Investigating having a monthly page of TRF news in TBM magazine.

Dispense with Trail altogether and put all our available finances into the Fighting Fund.

What do you think?

Should we put all our energies and funds into fighting lane closures, even if it is at the expense of Trail, in its present form and use the website, forum and email as the main means of communication.

Your opinion is extremely important so the more replies, the better.

David Scott

*Ed: Please forward your views and/or suggestions on these issues raised by David to the Editor: Fred Ellison, Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe BB7 9DG. editor@trf.org.uk*

## MEMBERS CLASSIFIEDS

**HONDA XR400R** 1998 (S), white/red, 8700 miles, 2 owners from new, v.g.c., just had new piston, front wheel bearing, front brake pads, brake pedal bearing. Good tyres, modern classic therefore cheap to insure, tax until end May '13, MOT until April '13. £1250. Located in South Somerset. Tel: 07501 136365 for more info or photos.

**SUZUKI DR250** 1995 Twin Cam model. Showing signs of 10 yrs use here in N. Wales, scrapes, scuffs, tear in the seat cover. A bit over 20000km on clock & looks a bit rough, but never let me down. Regular oil changes & general maintenance. Recent wheel bearings, shocker bush. Taxed, MOT May. Good winter bike (save the shiny KTM). £820. **CRM Mk1 Piston Kit** includes gaskets, rings, circlips, pins etc. Brand spanking new, Honda Japanese made. £100. Hugh Tel: 07785 745593.

**KTM 625 SXC LC4** 2005 (55) 9024 miles MOT: May 2013. TAX: Sorn at this time. I bought the bike in 2010. I have used the bike for green lanes & marshalling events & big bike rallye's. The bike has been very well looked after. Upgrades/mods I have made: Caos custom modified seat (special foam & sued leather); new rear SM mudguard with L.E.D tail & stop light; RFX

large foot pegs; Radiator fan. Touratech bash plate. The engine has had a recent service, oil, filters, tappets, putolin ice rad fluid, new started clutch. Brake & master cylinder seal kits, new bearings in swing arm & suspension linkage, new high crank battery. I daren't add up what this has cost! Would make a good round the world bike! No swaps or trade in, viewing recommended. £2500 ONO. Tel: 07904 378060.

## TRAIL RIDERS DVD

You can view the trailer, download an order form or pay online at [www.video-cameraman.co.uk/trail-riders](http://www.video-cameraman.co.uk/trail-riders)

*Ed: lots of ideas for future activities!*

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**Members Classifieds: Bikes, Riding Gear etc FREE OF CHARGE** Enclose membership number. **ALL Commercial Advertising to be paid for** - £1 per line, £5 minimum. Please send all classifieds with payment if applicable to THE EDITOR, Sheepcote Farm, Moor Lane, Wiswell, Clitheroe BB7 9DG. Tel: 01254 823893 Fax: 01254 887999 editor@trf.org.uk

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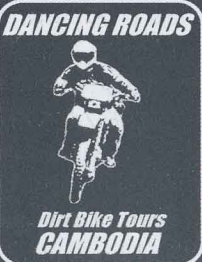
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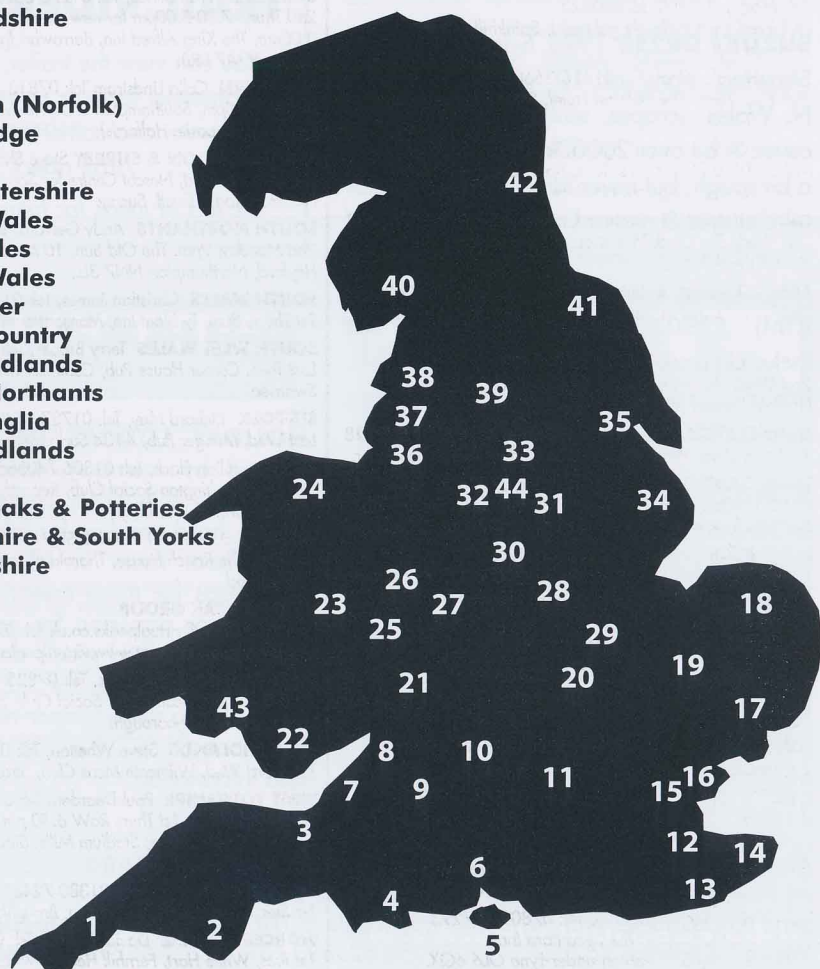
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44. Virtual Peak



## GROUPS

**AXE VALE** David Clegg, Tel: 01275 373652 (Home), Mob: 0793 1220895. dccje@talktalk.net 2nd Tues, 8pm, Windmill Inn, Nore Road, Portishead.

**BLACK COUNTRY** John Oseland, Tel: 01902 656011 1st Tues, 9pm, The Longford House, Watling Street, Cannock.

**BRISTOL** Glenn Summers, Tel: 07708 407061 4th Mon, 8pm, Portcullis, 130 High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5HH.

**CAMBRIDGE** Tony Lacey, Tel: 07753 820520 1st Thurs, 8.00 p.m., The Seven Wives, Ramsey Road, St. Ives PE27 5RF.

**CORNWALL** Adam Hedley, Tel: 01579 349217 3rd Thurs, 7.30 - 8.00 p.m., The Borough Arms, Bodmin.

**CUMBRIA & CRAVEN** Roger Harris, Tel: 01539 725198 2nd Tues, 7.30pm, The Bluebell, Heversham - 1 mile N of Milnthorpe on the A6.

**DERBYSHIRE & SOUTH YORKSHIRE** Bob Morley, Tel: 07836 680323 2nd Wednesday, The Angel Hotel, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB.

**DEVON** John Heal, Tel: 01626 366860 2nd Tues, 8pm, The Dolphin Hotel, Station Road, Bovey Tracey, TQ13 9AL.

**DORSET** W. John Williamson, Tel: 01929 553640 Mob: 07850 727873 1st Tues, 8pm, Greyhound Inn, Winterbourne, Kingston, Nr. Bere Regis DT11 9AZ.

**EAST MIDLANDS** Graham Chinnery, Tel: 01332 863433 2nd Wed, The Clock Warehouse, London Road, Shardlow, just off the A50.

**EAST YORKSHIRE** Simon Garthwaite, Tel: 07980 680026 2nd Tues, 8pm, Londesborough Arms, Market Weighton, York.

**ESSEX** Cliff Eaves, Tel: 07515 330423 2nd Wed, The Wheatsheaf, Maldon Road, Hatfield Peverel, Essex.

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE** James Osborne, Tel: 01531 822728 1st Wed, 8pm, Wagonworks Club, Tuffley Ave., Gloucester.

**HERTFORDSHIRE** Ken Marshall, Tel: 07776 493343, marshall.k@sky.com 2nd Wed, 8.30pm, Shire Social Club, Shire Park, Welwyn Garden City AL7 1TW.

**HIGH PEAK & POTTERIES** Steve Hyde Tel: 07931 728956. 1st Thurs, 8.30 - 9.00pm, The Foaming Quart, 5 Frobisher St., Norton Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 8PD.

**ISLE OF WIGHT** 1st Wed, 8pm, The Eight Bells Inn, Carisbrooke, Newport, IOW.

**KENT** Steve Neville Tel: 01474 742705 2nd Tues, 8.30p.m. for 9pm, The Anchor & Hope, South Ash Road, Ash (Nr Sevenoaks), Kent TN15 7ER.

**LANCASHIRE** John Gardner, Tel: 01695 622792 1st Tues, Black Bull, Hall Lane, Mawdesley.

**LINCOLNSHIRE** Paul Vernon, Tel: 01522 889079 4th Thurs, 8pm, Lincolnshire Poacher, Bunkers Hill, Lincoln.

**LODDON VALE** Eddie Mace, Tel: 01189 333380 2nd Tues, Swan Inn, Basingstoke Road, Three Mile Cross, Reading, Berks RG7 1AT. joinus@lvtrf.co.uk

**MANCHESTER** Phil Kinder, Tel: 07809 647293 2nd & 4th Mon, 9pm, The Sycamore Inn, 4 Stamford Square, Ashton-under-Lyne OL6 6QX.

**MID WALES** Tony Rooney, Tel: 01239 698349 Last Thurs, 7.30pm, The Crown Inn, Rhayader except July & December.

**NORTHUMBRIA** Nic Gilbert, Tel: 07940 133871 1st Wed, 8pm, The Staffs Club, Blaydon, NE21 4JB.

**NORTH WALES** Neil "Timpo" Thompson, Tel: 07980 555874 1st Wed, 8pm, The Griffin Inn, Mold Road, Mynydd Isa, CH7 6TF. Ref SJ 257 638.

**NORFOLK** Terry Reeve, Tel: 0771 5013 665 2nd Wed, 8pm, White Horse, Trowse, Norwich.

**OXFORDSHIRE** Steve Pickford, Tel: 01865 463626 oxford@trf.org.uk 3rd Thurs, 8pm, The Gladiator Sport & Social Club, 263 Ilffley Road, Oxford, OX4 1SJ, next to Ridgeway VW Garage.

**PEAK DISTRICT** Alan Gilmore, Tel: 01332 553246 1st Thurs, 8pm, The Joiner's Arms, Church Road, Quarndon, Derby.

**RIBBLE VALLEY** Peter Ashurst, Tel: 07817 928329 2nd Tues, 8.30pm, Brown Cow, Chatburn, Clitheroe (off A59).

**SOMERSET** Fran Bunce, Tel: 01278 662605 2nd Thurs, 7.30-8.00pm for new members. Meeting starts at 8.00pm, The King Alfred Inn, Burrowbridge, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0RB.

**SOUTHERN** Colin Lindstrom Tel: 07818 404240 3rd Thurs, 8pm, Southampton & District MCC, Woodside Ave., Eastleigh, (opposite Halfords).

**SOUTH LONDON & SURREY** Steve Sharp, 0208 773 4204 8.30pm, 4th Wed, Nescot Centre for Sports Development, Banstead Road, Ewell, Surrey.

**SOUTH NORTHANTS** Andy Gerrard, Tel: 07803 600571 2nd Monday, 9pm, The Old Sun, 10 Middle Street, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3LL.

**SOUTH WALES** Christian James, Tel: 01446 410073 1st Thurs, 8pm, Ty Nant Inn, Morganstown, Nr Radyr CF15 8LB.

**SOUTH WEST WALES** Terry Brooks, Tel: 07910 050001 Last Tues, Corner House Pub, Commercial Street, Ystalyfera, Swansea.

**SUFFOLK** Richard May, Tel: 01787 374073 Last Wed, Manger Pub, A134 Sudbury Rd, Bury-St-Ed.

**SUSSEX** Julian Flack, Tel: 01306 740586 Last Thurs, Ashington Social Club, Rear of Red Lion, A24, 9 miles North of Worthing.

**TEESSIDE & NORTH YORKS** SITUATION VACANT. 3rd Tues, The Ranch House, Thoraldby Farm, Stokesley/Hutton Rudby Road.

**VIRTUAL PEAK GROUP** Paul King, king@virtualpeaks.co.uk Tel: 07966 289778 This is a virtual group at www.virtualpeaks.co.uk

**WEST ANGLIA** Mark Jones, Tel: 07825 142511 1st & 3rd Thurs, Scott Bader Social Club, opp. Parish Church, Wollaston, Wellingborough.

**WEST MIDLANDS** Steve Whetton, Tel: 01527 451089 1st & 3rd Wed, Wilmcote Mens Club, Stratford on Avon.

**WEST YORKSHIRE** Paul Dearden, Tel: 07901 381629 info@wytrf.org.uk 1st Thurs RoW 6.30 pm, Main Meeting 7.30pm, Cue Gardens, Stadium Mills, Stadium Road, Bradford BD6 1BJ.

**WILTSHIRE** Vic Price, Tel: 01380 724651 1st Tues, The Bell On The Common, Broughton Gifford SN12 8LX.

**WORCESTERSHIRE** David Walters, Tel: 07767 204730 1st Tues, White Hart, Fernhill Heath, Worcs.





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TRF Standard Polo shirt - Grey in M, L or XL	£ 14.50			

Items marked with a\* already include postage and packaging

Postal Charges: 1 item £2.50, 2 items £3.50, 3 items £5.00, 4 items £6.50, 5+ items £7.00

Or let me know beforehand and I can bring along to the monthly meeting or event.

Goods \_\_\_\_\_

P&P \_\_\_\_\_

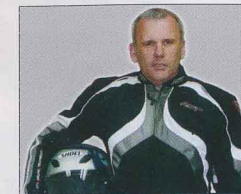
Total value of Order \_\_\_\_\_

Name:	Payment Details
Delivery Address:	I enclose a chq to the value of: Please make chq's payable to the TRF
	I wish to make payment with a credit/debit card
	Name on Card: _____
	Card Number: _____
Membership Number:	Expiry Date: _____
Contact Number:	Sec Code: _____
Email Address:	Total to be debited: _____

Profits from each sale go towards the TRF Fighting Fund

## Injured In A Bike Accident?

Seek the advice of expert solicitor, experienced biker and fellow TRF member - Mark Lampkin.



Mark Lampkin  
Motorcycle Accident Solicitor

We are proud that most of our business comes from recommendations. We are motorcycle accident specialists and have years of experience. We don't need any gimmicks and simply offer you the very best in accident claims services.

- 100% Compensation**
- True No Win, No Fee**
- No Risk**
- \*£100 donation to TRF Fighting Fund**



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*\*donation made when we take on your case - terms & conditions apply*

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www.trf.org.uk/shop

## TRF SHOP

Remember to pay a visit to the TRF shop at [www.trf.org.uk/shop](http://www.trf.org.uk/shop)

where you will find a selection of:

*Embroidered polo shirts available in green or grey from small to XXL large, an assortment of mugs in a variety of designs in either black, green, white or grey along with pens, stickers, key-rings and travel mugs along with other items.*

All profits from each sale go towards the TRF Fighting Fund. Don't forget to check the website for offers and discounts.

For bulk enquiries or orders, please contact [shop@trf.org.uk](mailto:shop@trf.org.uk)

**Happy Shopping!**

